

**MAJ. AARON STAFFORD.**

**A VETERAN OFFICER OF 1812.**

**The Story of His Eventful Life - Rev. Dana Bigelow's Remarks - Long Life but a Point Compared With Eternity - His Coffin Enveloped in His Country's Flag.**

Aaron Stafford of this village, was born March 18, 1787, and died the 6th of September, 1885. He was born and died on a Sunday; and was five months and twenty-nine days older than the federal constitution. He had resided in the town of Sangerfield 84 years, and lived 71 years in the house where he died. He was the last survivor of the soldiers of the war of 1812, who was known to have held an officer's commission; the last one before him having died about seven years ago. The first President he voted for was James Madison, and the last, Grover Cleveland. All the Presidents of the United States were inaugurated during his life time.

Mr. Stafford's funeral was attended from his late residence last Tuesday, and the services were performed by Rev. R.H. Nelson, Rector of Grace Church, and Rev. Dana W. Bigelow, pastor of the Memorial Presbyterian Church, of Utica. Mr. Bigelow ever since his boyhood had known Mr. Stafford personally, in whose character there was much that he admired. He delivered the following discourse on the occasion of his funeral:

But a few months since, a beloved grand-daughter, beautiful in youth, was borne from this house. Today, in the providence of God, we meet to bear to his last resting place the aged grandfather.

We had thought that Mr. Stafford might live to complete one hundred full years; and while he was enjoying a comfortable old age, in his own home, infirm but bright in mind, surrounded by those who ministered to his every want, we had earnestly hoped that this expectation might be realized. But an iron constitution yielded at last to bodily infirmities, and he who has been with this village from its settlement, and with this nation from before the day that its first President was inaugurated, has departed this life.

Can we speak of such life as a shadow? Yes, if we compare it with the life to come. We speak of this as long life, but a century has beginning and end, and the hereafter is eternity, the forever and ever. This measure of time is in truth but a point, and man at his best estate is as but a flower of the field. Our times are in the hands of One with whom a thousand years are as one day and one day as a thousand years. Shall we not then be again reminded that our days are as a shadow, and there is none abiding? Our days on earth are numbered, and though they be multiplied beyond those of any other person of our generation, yet they will be certainly and soon passed. Blessed be the Lord, our God, that He who has life and immortality, has given his own Son, that we may live by him. The Lord Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life, and if on earth we live by faith in Him, in love and obedience, death is but the beginning of time and endless life.

We may ask for the blessing of long life, and rejoice if many days are given us on earth where we may find so much to do and so much to enjoy, but let it be our first and chief thought that under Divine guidance, in following Christ, we may be prepared for the Father's house in Heaven, for life in the presence of the glorified Saviour, and for reunion there with loved ones who have been redeemed unto God, to his own possession and joy, world without end. If, however, we compare one hundred years with the time allotted to nearly all of any generation, how remarkable they appear as the period of one individual life.

When the last century closed, a boy of thirteen years enjoyed a pleasant home across the street from this house where we meet this afternoon. All this part of the village was then the Stafford farm, a place for work, and the field for many sports, for boys of that day loved sport and knew where to find it, as did other boys who followed after in other years. Perhaps it was the memory of his own boyhood that made him so lenient when a man, toward boys who in generation after generation found a playground in his pastures and orchards, and by the stream that wound its way so pleasantly beneath the trees and through the fields of his wide reaching farm. We were never closely watched, never ordered off from the frequented fishing and swimming places, from croquet grounds and training fields. Surely his boyhood must have taught him, that boys are boys and that their sports last none too long.

When 1812 came Aaron Stafford was no longer a boy, but a young man, twenty-five years of age, and ardent lover of his nation, which was of his own age, nearly, not quite. He enlisted for war at the time of his country's need, and proved his valor and spirit of self-sacrifice in conflicts that left him severely wounded. Henceforth he bore in his body the marks of his participation. He gave other proofs of this regard for the welfare of his country. He served the State at one time in the halls of legislation; and when a private citizen, he maintained an intense interest in our history. If he differed from others in judgement at any time, none had reason to question the depth, or the sincerity of his convictions. He was unwavering in his loyalty to his friends. Those who once esteemed him as a friend, found him ever the same, cheerful in spirit and warm in personal friendship. His kindness of heart toward all, made him a man well spoken of and esteemed by the whole community. Those who remember him not as an aged man, shut in and ministered to, but the man of strength and of affairs, will especially affirm the truth of these statements. Another generation has grown to manhood, since Mr. Stafford was very active among the leaders of society.

But in his own home he was best known. He had a worthy wife, who became a dearly loved mother. Children were born, grew to manhood and womanhood, went forth to take their places in the world, with fond memories of the old home, to which they love often to return. They remember him as a father ever thoughtful of their happiness, ever deeply interested in their welfare. Most affectionate, and most grateful for every act of kindness, he appreciated all that was done for his comfort in old age. He lived to witness how great changes were made in this village and this nation, and what overturnings in the world. He lived until his appointed time was come; and after bearing trials in brave and

patient spirit, he has passed from among us. His peaceful and pleasant face may now be looked upon for the last time.

The pall bearers were J.A. Berrill, W.J. Bissell, G.H. Church, M.L. Conger, J.W. Hubbard, E.H. Lamb, A.O. Osborn, Geo. Putnam, F.H. Terry and Charlemange Tower.

The remains were interred in the Waterville Cemetery, near the center of the grounds; he is the oldest person ever buried there. The stone over the grave of his father, Ichabod Stafford, whose grave is in the southwest corner is the oldest stone in the cemetery.

The following interesting sketch was prepared by Aaron Stafford's grandson, Martin H. Stafford of New York:

Aaron Stafford, born March 18, 1787 at Cheshire, Mass., and died at Waterville, N.Y., Sept. 6, at the advanced age of 98 years, 5 months and 18 days, was the second son of Ichabod Stafford by his wife Humility, daughter of James Green, Jr., of Coventry, R.I., and the lineal descendant of Thomas Stafford, one of the colony that settled at Portsmouth and Newport, R.I., in the spring of 1638.

At the close of the Revolution, in which he with four of his brothers had served their country, Ichabod Stafford, with his brother William, and their families, moved from Coventry, R.I., to Lanesboro, Mass., in 1783, and they were soon followed by his father and other members of the Stafford family, and it was here that Aaron Stafford was born soon after Lanesboro was divided and the new town of Cheshire created.

Ichabod Stafford removed to Duanesburgh, N.Y., in 1788, where he resided until the summer of 1793, when with Joseph and Abraham Forbes, with their families, removed to what is now Augusta, Oneida Co., N.Y., being the first white settlers of that town. In 1801 Mr. Stafford having purchased of Nathan Gurney, Bazerial Gurney, his son, and Bincas Owen, all their rights in lot No. 40, in the town of Sangerfield, and what is now the eastern portion of the village of Waterville, removed his family to his new home, and in the following year built a house upon the lot where now stands the residence of Mr. George Putnam. Here Mr. Stafford lived until his death, July 30, 1804. At his death he left a widow and a family of five children in a new, but rapidly growing country, he had few of the advantages enjoyed by those who were members of older communities, but he improved the advantages that were presented, and few indeed were the boys of his time who could equal him in natural abilities, or who had improved their advantages better than he. At the death of his father he took the most active part in the management of the property that his father had left, at the same time not neglecting to improve his mind.

In 1801 his mother and the other children, of which Aaron Stafford was the third and then in his eighteenth year. Mr. Stafford left his family in comfortable circumstances

and the farm was managed for several years by his widow, in which she was assisted by her two eldest sons, but Aaron in particular.

The early years of Aaron Stafford's life were passed much as the life of any boy in his station of life may be supposed to have been passed, without any particular event to distinguish it from those of his companions. The son of a pioneer the other children moved from the house his father had built to a new house they had erected on the opposite side of the road, and Mr. Stafford opened the old home as a public house, which he conducted successfully for two years, but the life was not in many respects pleasant to him and he closed it to devote his time to farming.

Mr. Stafford was engaged in farming when the war of 1812 called the country to arms. He was the first to enlist and call upon the young men of the vicinity to join him. He raised a small company of men, of which he was appointed ensign, and in May, 1812, went to Sacketts Harbor under Col. Marshall Bellingier in First Detachment N.Y. State Militia. When the three months had expired for which they had volunteered, he volunteered to remain and was in service twenty-four days before discharged, the service having been one of garrison duty.

Immediately on his return home he was visited by Major Maynard who, appreciating his ability and courage, offered him the position of adjutant of the 16th Reg. N.Y. Detached Militia commanded by Lieut. Col. Farrand Stranahan. He accepted and at once went to Albany, where he successfully passed the examination and received his commission. After procuring his uniform he joined his regiment at Winfield on Sept. 8, 1812, and the regiment soon after took up its march for the Niagara River and reached Niagara Falls the Friday before the battle of Queenstown Heights. He was soon after dispatched with a company to Buffalo to convey provisions to the army, and executed his difficult commission with so much skill and dispatch as to win the applause of his superior officers.

At sunrise on the morning of October 13, 1812, the main body of the army, under the command of Gen. Winfield Scott, commenced to cross the river, and Stafford was left in command of a detachment to cross after the main body had landed. He followed close after the main body, under fire of the British, landed and commenced to ascend the heights, but had not proceeded but a short distance before they were fired upon by a body of British and Indians, by which several were killed and wounded. Stafford was shot in the shoulder by an Indian, but still kept his horse and passed on at the head of his command, but was soon again shot in the thigh and fell from his horse. Several officers and men who saw him fall supposed him dead, but rushed to the spot to prevent him from being scalped by the Indians, among the number Capt. Felt, who helped to bind up his wounds and assisted to carry him down the hill. But the Americans had lost the day, being outnumbered, and all the wounded, with many others, were taken prisoners. Stafford, with many of the officers and men, were conducted to Ft. George, where they were confined as prisoners of war. Stafford's wounds proved severe and he suffered greatly from want of proper care and attention, though Dr. Sumner, the British surgeon in charge,



did all he could under the circumstances to alleviate the sufferings of those under his care, but particularly of Stafford, who he admired for his high spirit and patient endurance of his wounds, and here was the commencement of a warm personal friendship between them which was only broken by the death of Dr. Sumner many years after.

Stafford, with other officers and men, were paroled after a week's imprisonment, and Dec. 8 he hired a boat to take him across the Niagara River to Black Rock, but nearly lost his life through the blundering of the men who rowed the boat. After a long and painful journey he reached home on Christmas night in a very exhausted state of health, and weeks passed before he was even out of danger.

This terminated his military career, and though promoted to the rank of Major he did not recover from his wounds sufficiently to permit him to again enter the service until the war was over, much to his sorrow, as the martial spirit ran high in his character.

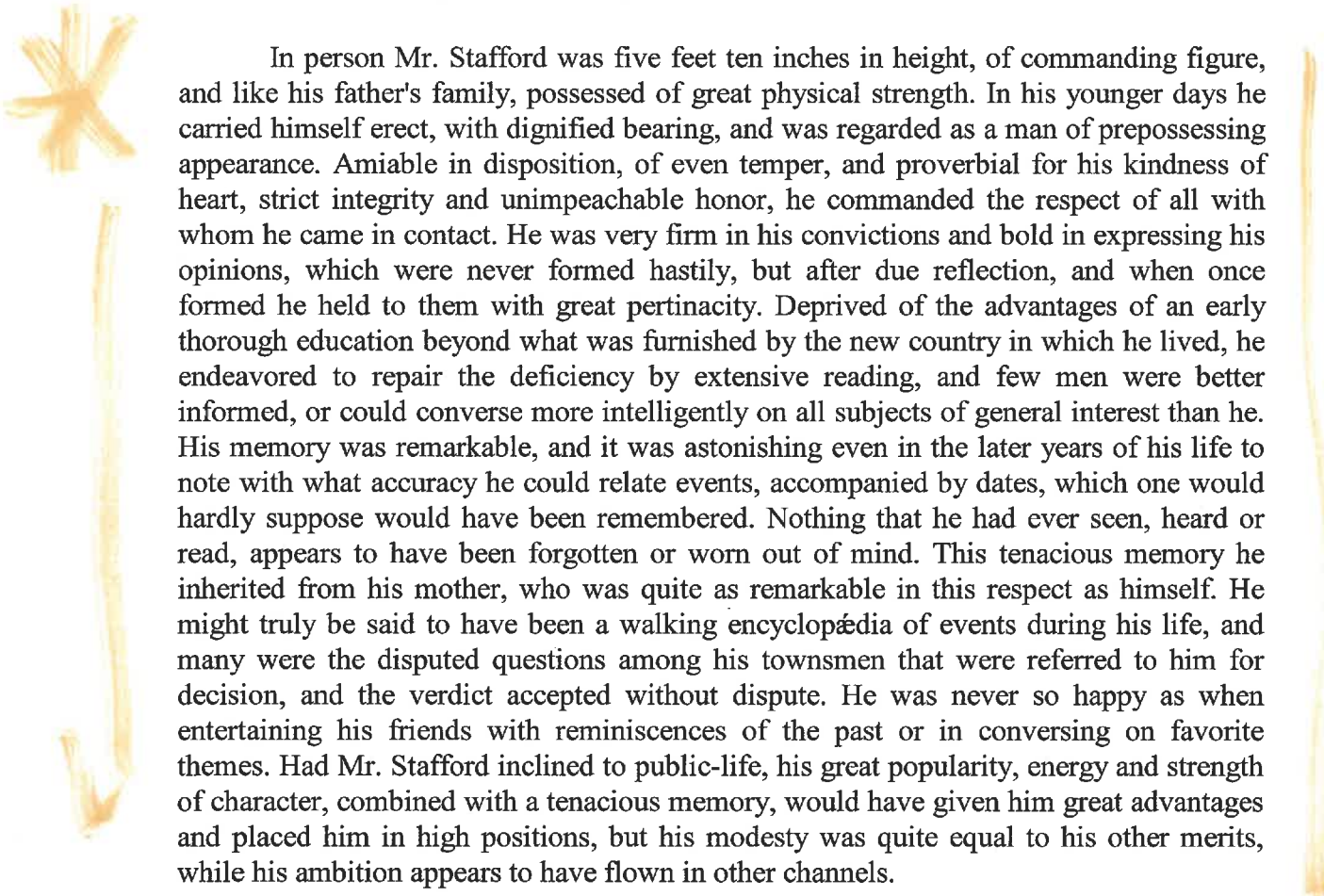
June 26, 1814, he married Harriet, daughter of Zeno Terry, who moved from Enfield, Conn., to Sangerfield, N.Y., being one of the first settlers of that town. He commenced his married life in the house which he had previously purchased from his brother Welcome, which he considerably enlarged and improved and made his residence the remainder of his life. Here he lived in great happiness with his wife for sixty-one years, until her death, April 5, 1875, and here their children were born. Lothrop P.; Mary, wife of Henry T. Utley of Waterville, N.Y.; Harriet, wife of William B. Stafford of New York; Marshall B., and Aaron Jackson. The eldest and youngest died several years before him.

Mr. Stafford was an active man in the community in which he lived, interesting himself in all measures for the advancement and improvement of the town, and though an active member of his political party, labored for its success from principles and not for political advancements. He was repeatedly urged to accept office, but only consented to the use of his name but once. That was in 1833, when the Democrats were very anxious to elect their legislative ticket in his District. The district had become close, and it was generally supposed that the Whigs would win it. Members of the legislature were elected on a general ticket at the time, and not by single districts, as at present, and Mr. Stafford was urged to go on the ticket to strengthen it, as he was personally very popular with all classes. He accepted the nomination and the ticket was elected, greatly to the surprise of the Whig candidates, who felt so confident of their election that they had engaged their quarters at Albany in anticipation of their sure election. Mr. Stafford acquired considerable reputation for the share he had in the victory. Judge Pomeroy Jones of Westmoreland was associated with Mr. Stafford on this legislative ticket and was also elected. A long and sincere friendship existed between them, severed only by the death of Judge Jones about two years ago. Political life had no charms for him, and he took greater pleasure in contributing to a victory than being the recipient of its fruits.

Mr. Stafford was a farmer, his whole active life being devoted to the cultivation of the soil, in which occupation he was successful, and his farm was one of the largest and

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best conducted in this section of the country. He and his brothers and sisters owned at one time all the land upon which the eastern portion of the village of Waterville is situated. Both sides of what is now Stafford avenue as far as the old Hooker road was once his farm and where are those yet living who can remember when there were very few houses on that avenue, except the house in which he lived and died, which was built in 1810 by his brother, and purchased by him in 1813, and which has undergone so many changes as to leave but little of the original design recognizable. It was here that he had lived for seventy-one years and died, and all his children were born. He had lived to see a prosperous and beautiful village grow up out of the wilderness, and be surrounded by more people than were to be found in the whole county when he came to it as a boy, for indeed there was no such county as Oneida then, or for several years after. Not a person is now living who remembers him as a boy, or young man; they have all passed away, and like the tall oak that has been spared by the woodman and stands alone, so stood he - the last survivor of the little colony in the wilderness, surrounded by a new generation and a new life. He was not only the oldest person in the town at the time of his death, but the oldest citizen, not only of this town but of any in this section of the state. That is, there is no one known to be living in the county of Oneida, or of Central New York, who came to it as early as he - 1793. He was also the last survivor of the soldiers of 1812 who was known to have held an officer's commission.



In person Mr. Stafford was five feet ten inches in height, of commanding figure, and like his father's family, possessed of great physical strength. In his younger days he carried himself erect, with dignified bearing, and was regarded as a man of prepossessing appearance. Amiable in disposition, of even temper, and proverbial for his kindness of heart, strict integrity and unimpeachable honor, he commanded the respect of all with whom he came in contact. He was very firm in his convictions and bold in expressing his opinions, which were never formed hastily, but after due reflection, and when once formed he held to them with great pertinacity. Deprived of the advantages of an early thorough education beyond what was furnished by the new country in which he lived, he endeavored to repair the deficiency by extensive reading, and few men were better informed, or could converse more intelligently on all subjects of general interest than he. His memory was remarkable, and it was astonishing even in the later years of his life to note with what accuracy he could relate events, accompanied by dates, which one would hardly suppose would have been remembered. Nothing that he had ever seen, heard or read, appears to have been forgotten or worn out of mind. This tenacious memory he inherited from his mother, who was quite as remarkable in this respect as himself. He might truly be said to have been a walking encyclopædia of events during his life, and many were the disputed questions among his townsmen that were referred to him for decision, and the verdict accepted without dispute. He was never so happy as when entertaining his friends with reminiscences of the past or in conversing on favorite themes. Had Mr. Stafford inclined to public-life, his great popularity, energy and strength of character, combined with a tenacious memory, would have given him great advantages and placed him in high positions, but his modesty was quite equal to his other merits, while his ambition appears to have flown in other channels.

AARON STAFFORD.

[To accompany bill H. R. No. 201.]

JANUARY 26, 1854.

Mr. HENDRICKS, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, made the following

REPORT.

*The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the petition of Aaron Stafford, have had the same under consideration, and report :*

That on the 30th January, 1853, the Committee on Invalid Pensions in this House reported a bill for the relief of the petitioner, and accompanied the bill with a statement of the facts entitling the petitioner to relief, which statement this committee find sustained by the proofs accompanying the petition. The committee adopt the report then made.

“ That at the first session of the thirtieth Congress the Committee on Invalid Pensions made a favorable report on the application of petitioner, and introduced a bill ; and that at the second session of the thirty-first Congress the Committee on Invalid Pensions made another favorable report, embracing and fully setting forth the facts in the case, which the committee adopt as part of their report, and which is as follows :

“ That it appears from said petition, the affidavit of said Stafford, and other affidavits and papers submitted to the committee, that said Stafford held a commission as adjutant on the 13th day of October, 1812, in the sixteenth detached regiment of the militia of the State of New York, in the service of the United States, during the last war with Great Britain. And it further appears from such petition, affidavits, and papers, that said Stafford, in the said capacity of adjutant, volunteered in the morning of the said 13th day of October, 1812, with about two hundred men, to cross over from Lewiston to Queenstown, and that he was engaged in the storming of Queenstown Heights, and in that battle that day.

“ It further appears from said petition, affidavits, and papers, that while he, the said Stafford, was so engaged in said battle, and in the line of his duty, he received four severe and dangerous wounds. One of said wounds was received above the right temple, from a musket ball ; another was received from a bullet passing through his right thigh, just below the groin ; a third was received from a musket or rifle ball in the left shoulder, just below the joint ; and a fourth wound was received from a grape-shot which struck him in front of his left thigh,



about five inches above the knee, dividing the muscles to the bone. That said Stafford, notwithstanding the first three wounds received by him as above described, continued fighting and urging on his men, until struck in his left thigh with a grape-shot as stated. That the wound received by the said grape-shot was so severe that it knocked him down the bank of the Niagara river, about one-third of the way to the water, and he was only saved from being precipitated into the river and drowned by grasping with his right hand, in his descent, a shrub, upon which he retained his hold, and thus fortunately saved his life; and that in the general surrender of all the forces on that field, he was helped from his perilous position, and delivered as a prisoner of war to the enemy.

It appears from an affidavit of Lemuel Pettingall, sworn on the 14th January, 1848, and furnished your committee, that he, said Pettingall, was a captain in the New York militia, and volunteered to, and crossed at the time, and was engaged in said battle; and he testifies, among other things, that the said Stafford was an adjutant in the said war with Great Britain, and was one of the two hundred men from the detached regiment of New York militia who volunteered to cross, as is hereinbefore stated; and he further states, "that the said Stafford was a man at that time of unusual bodily strength and activity and superior courage, and was of incalculable service in keeping up the spirit and discipline of said regiment always, and was a man who did as much as the efficient General Stephen Van Rensselaer himself, and more than any other man, to induce the officers and men to volunteer and cross, and to encourage and embolden the whole during the fight on Queenstown Heights." \* \* "That said Pettingall was himself wounded and taken prisoner at the time, and saw said Stafford brought into the camp of the enemy upon a blanket carried by four men, and covered with blood from his wounds."

Captain Joseph Westcott, who was also engaged in said battle, testifies, but substantially, to the same state of facts as Captain Pettingall; and, in addition, he further states, "that he was present, about three weeks after the said battle, in the rooms of said Stafford, in Lewiston, and saw the surgeon general of the militia, Dr. Brown, dress said Stafford's wounds; that two of said wounds—one on the left shoulder, and one on the front of the left thigh—were very deep, and of an alarming aspect, and he doubted at that time whether said Stafford would survive them."

Much other testimony will be found among the papers, corroborating the facts stated; but your committee deem it unnecessary to embody it in this report.

The gallantry, bravery, and daring of Mr. Stafford, and his severe wounds, therefore seem to be fully sustained.

The next question is, to what extent have these wounds disabled the said Stafford? Upon this point your committee beg leave to refer to the following evidence:

1. It appears from the affidavit of Captain Joseph Westcott, hereinbefore referred to, that "said wounds have deprived said Stafford permanently of that strength and energy for which before he was so conspicuous, and have so injured said Stafford's bodily powers as to disable



him totally for military service, or the business of civil life, and to prevent him from earning a livelihood by labor."

2. Captain Pettingall testifies to substantially the same facts, and gives substantially the same opinions.

3. Major Irvey Holland, an officer in the said New York regiment, testifies to the same facts in substance.

4. The affidavit of Peter B. Havens your committee beg leave to give entire. The character of Dr. Havens is certified to under date of the 13th day of December, A. D. 1847, by the Hon. Charles Mason, one of the present judges of the supreme court of the State of New York, which certificate, annexed to the affidavit of Dr. Havens, your committee also submit entire.

STATE OF NEW YORK, *Madison county*, ss:

Peter B. Havens, being duly sworn, says: That he is sixty years of age, and is a practising physician and surgeon, and resides in the village of Hamilton, in the county and State above mentioned, and has resided in that village since the year 1814; that he knows Aaron Stafford, of Sangerfield, in the county of Oneida, in said State, and has been personally and intimately acquainted with him for fifty years, and has, within the last thirty-five years, often acted professionally both as physician and as surgeon in said Stafford's family; that he has resided, since the year 1814, at a distance of only twelve miles from said Stafford, and resided previous to that year at a less distance from him; that he knew the physical condition of said Aaron Stafford before the battle of Queenstown Heights, and has known it since; that, previous to that battle, said Stafford was a strong and physically perfect man, active and able to perform and endure as much as any man; that he saw said Stafford within a few months after his return home from that battle, and examined the wounds received by him in that battle; that he had four wounds—two of which, one on his left shoulder and one on the front of his left thigh, were of a serious character, and sufficient to disable permanently his left arm and left leg; that the wound on the front of his left thigh was then and is now a deep depression—two inches wide across the thigh—indicating that the muscles on that thigh must have been divided, nearly or quite to the bone; that, from that examination of those two wounds, and from an examination of them now, which he has also made, he should and does pronounce them sufficient to prevent said Stafford from earning a livelihood by labor, and to constitute a total disability; that he has seen said Stafford several times in each year since the year 1812, and knows personally that said Stafford has not, since receiving the said wounds, been able to earn a livelihood by work, or to endure physical labor to any great extent; and he believes and has no doubt that such inability of said Stafford was caused by the permanent injuries done to his system by the said two wounds; that he has also known the moral character and standing in society of said Stafford for the last fifty years, and that the said Stafford has been, during that period, and is now, a man of high honor and private worth, distinguished for his integrity and virtues, and generally esteemed by all his acquaintances. And further says not

P. B. HAVENS

Subscribed and sworn to this thirteenth day of December, A. D. 1847, before me, by Peter B. Havens, who, I also hereby certify, is personally known to me: the words "acquainted" and "to constitute a total disability" having been first interlined.

CHARLES MASON,

*Justice of the Supreme Court.*

STATE OF NEW YORK, *Madison county*, ss:

I, the undersigned, a justice of the supreme court of the State of New York, do hereby certify, that I have been well acquainted with Doctor P. B. Havens, whose name is subscribed to the above affidavit, and that he stands very high, and is eminent in his profession, both as a physician and surgeon, and has had a very extensive practice as a surgeon, and for many years, in this place; and I have no hesitation in saying that, for the last twenty years, he has stood pre-eminently at the head of his profession in this section of the State, and that he is a gentleman of high character for integrity, and sustains a high reputation for honesty and propriety of conduct.

CHARLES MASON,

*Justice of the Supreme Court.*

DECEMBER 30, 1847.

From all the above facts there seems no doubt of the total disability of Mr. Stafford from the time of his wounds; but it appears from his petition, sworn to on the 4th day of December, 1847, that some time about the year 1819, Charles W. Hull, the surgeon's mate of said 16th detached regiment, reported upon the case of Stafford as only a two-thirds disability. This might have all been true then, as it was soon after the wounds were received; but said Hull afterwards declared to said Stafford that he regretted having reported it as only a two-thirds disability, and that he was satisfied said Stafford was never able, after receiving his said wounds, to earn a livelihood by work, and ought to have been reported by him as totally disabled.

It further appears from the papers that the petitioner is now over sixty years of age, and has within a few years lost, by misfortune, nearly all his property, and is in actual need of all the bounty of the nation to which he is justly entitled.

It appears from many papers, letters, and affidavits furnished the committee, that the petitioner is a man of high character, unblemished reputation, and highly esteemed by all who know him.

The above are all the facts, as briefly set forth as the nature of the case admits of. Comment seems unnecessary.

The government has not been entirely unmindful of what was due to the applicant; for it appears that on the 3d of March, 1817, a pension was granted him of \$5 33 per month, and on the 3d of March, 1819, his pension was increased to \$10 per month, which he has received to this time.

In order that there should be no mistake about the facts upon which the petitioner relies for relief, a former member of the Invalid Pension committee addressed a note to General Scott, in reference to the case

of Mr. Stafford, and received from him the following certificate annexed to copies of the petition and affidavits:

"This is to certify that I well recollect, at the battle of Queenstown, (October, 1812,) the adjutant of the New York militia, described in the foregoing petition, and now do not doubt it was the Lieutenant Aaron Stafford, the petitioner. I also remember his zeal and gallantry on that occasion, and that he was badly wounded under my eye and near my position.

"WINFIELD SCOTT,

*"Lieutenant Colonel and Commander at Queenstown.*

"HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,

*"Washington, September 11, 1850."*

The same member of the committee was also kindly furnished with a letter, of which the following is a copy, by the late Commissioner of Pensions, Colonel Edwards, a most vigilant servant and able officer, and who at all times watched the public funds with the greatest solicitude and care:

"PENSION OFFICE, September 12, 1850.

"SIR: The papers in the case of Aaron Stafford are herewith returned. I have already given my opinion on this case, as you will discover on reading my letter to the Hon. H. Johnson, of the 15th February, 1849, which is enclosed. This brave man freely shed his blood in defence of his country, and he is now suffering from his wounds. If ever there was a case in which liberality should be exercised, this is one. He should, in my opinion, receive the highest pension allowed by law to a subaltern, and he should have it from the time he was wounded, viz: \$17 per month, from the 13th of October, 1812, (the day on which he was wounded,) deducting the amount heretofore paid.

"I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

"J. L. EDWARDS.

"Hon. O. B. MATTESON,

*House of Representatives."*

The committee are of opinion that your petitioner is entitled to an increase of pension, and therefore ask leave to report a bill.

